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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP03/03452

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
Int.Cl⁷ G21K7/00, G01N23/04

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Int.Cl⁷ G21K7/00, G01N23/04

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1922-1996 Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1994-2003
Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1971-2003 Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho 1996-2003

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|-----------|---|-----------------------|
| Y | JP 4-265900 A (Nikon Corp.), 22 September, 1992 (22.09.92), Full text; all drawings (Family: none) | 1-3 |
| Y | JP 9-251100 A (Olympus Optical Co., Ltd.), 22 September, 1997 (22.09.97), Full text; all drawings (Family: none) | 1-3 |
| Y | JP 9-178900 A (Olympus Optical Co., Ltd.), 11 July, 1997 (11.07.97), Full text; all drawings (Family: none) | 1-3 |

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

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"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

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"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search
24 June, 2003 (24.06.03)

Date of mailing of the international search report
08 July, 2003 (08.07.03)

Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Japanese Patent Office

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Facsimile No.

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PCT/JP03/03452

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|-----------|--|-----------------------|
| Y | JP 7-243993 A (Hamamatsu Photonics Kabushiki Kaisha), 19 September, 1995 (19.09.95), Full text; all drawings (Family: none) | 1-3 |